



The UUCG beacon

November 2009

The *beacon* is published monthly
by the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

Nov 1
Celebrating All Souls Day
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Nov 8
*ECU School of Medicine's
Readers Theater*
Todd Savit

Nov 15
A Rumor of Angels
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Nov 22
Guest at Your Table Sunday
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Nov 29
5th Sunday/PiCas0

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.

President's Notes

Most years the transition from summer to autumn here in Eastern Carolina is pretty gradual as the nights become cooler while the dawdling sun still warms up the afternoon sky. The usual result is that choosing what to wear the next day is a study in chance and frustration and layering becomes the new reality. This year the transition has been sudden and unexpectedly unexpected.....and all of a sudden the upcoming three month holiday marathon of gatherings and celebration is my new reality!

Our UUCG reality is that our gatherings and celebrations have multiple purposes: to fellowship, to support each person's spiritual journey, to worship, to learn and grow, to raise funds, and to have fun. These are just some of the reasons we join together on a regular basis. Attendees of our current Adult RE class, "Spirit of Life: Exploring Spirituality for UUs", the nine week Adult Religious Education (RE) program led by Reverend Ann Marie, have been talking about all they are learning about that hard to define term "spirituality", each other, and themselves. Our Youth Religious Education Fall Gathering will be an opportunity to answer two questions: who is the best person to get lost with, in the corn maze and exactly what goes into "stone soup?" In December we will all find out what a Hymnphony is as Stephen Brand and Mort Stine coax the music out of all of us "couldn't carry a tune in a bucket" folks! UUCG had four members in attendance, "Standing on the Side of Love," at the 200,000 person National Equality March in Washington, DC, on October 11th. We had thirty members participate in the annual Greenville Crop Walk and we had close to sixty members and friends attend one of the SLRP focus groups. To do all these things costs money – the correct term is "operating expenses" and we all know that money is in short supply everywhere these days. At our last Board meeting we reviewed our budget, as we do every month, and talked about the difference between our budget plan and what we are actually spending. The reality is that our \$93,000 annual budget means that we need to

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

The wheel of the year is turning, turning. Soon the trees will be mostly bare of leaves and the weather will be mostly cold and daylight will be short. It's the time of year to prepare for winter. It is the time of year to bring in the harvest! It's the time of year to be thankful for what you have, for what you planted that grew and yielded fruit, for what you gathered or gleaned. It really doesn't matter if you have a garden, or even a farm, metaphorically we are all in the midst of harvesting something! What have you brought in, brought close, stored up nearby, that expresses your faith that you believe will sustain you through cold, dark and bare times? What have you gathered? What have you harvested from your plot, or gleaned from a neighbor's? Whatever it is...remember to be grateful for it. Say "thank you" every day, for this is the season of harvest and gratitude.

—Ann Marie

RE Notes:

Greetings from RE! Many of you are already aware that we have a new Director of Religious Education here at UUCG. Kimberly Scholl has recently taken on this role, and I wanted to give everyone else a chance to know some of what I have learned about her. Kimberly has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance and is currently completing her certification as a Montessori Teacher through the American Montessori Society. She has a wealth of experience in teaching in a Montessori setting, which I feel is a wonderful fit for our UU children considering Montessori's emphasis on child-directed and interactive learning. Kimberly brings more than just her education and experience with her to this position. She brings with her an enthusiasm and passion for life and the search for truth. Many of her ideals and views on human worth are ones that I have heard echoed by many members of our congregation. Kimberly is already using that enthusiasm and creativity to customize curriculum to fit our UUCG youth as well as planning fun activities, and I am excited by the possibilities! I encourage each of you to take some

time to speak with Kimberly and learn more about the newest addition to our RE family.

I want to thank everyone who has participated in our Scholastic book orders. Each month we can choose from a new selection of books. We can order from multiple "clubs" which allows us to offer books appropriate for a wide range of children, from preschool to middle school. By purchasing books through Scholastic you can get some great books for the children in your life while helping the Religious Education program get some much needed books for free.

As a reminder, the Religious Education program is taught primarily by volunteers from our congregation. Please consider volunteering to teach or assist in the nursery one or more Sunday a month. Your time will positively influence our youth, and I'd be willing to bet that the youth will positively influence you as well. The children are bright and insightful and anxious to find their own truths... please take some time to help guide them.

In Service,
Jennifer Thielen

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, November 17th at 8:00 pm

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

8th Annual Community
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Sunday November 22, 2009
3:00 pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
401 East Fourth Street

We will express our Gratitude through music, poems and recitations provided by our abundant diverse Greenville faith communities.

Refreshments and an opportunity to get to know one another will follow.

All are Welcome

Child care provided.

Donations of non-perishable food will be taken to help feed the hungry in our community.

Interfaith Mission Statement:

We promote peace and justice through open communication and understanding of various faith traditions. We share religious values of harmony, compassion, human dignity and mutual respect. We celebrate diversity through shared worship, fellowship and education.

From the Worship Committee

McAlister's Deli Community Night

The restaurant locally called our October 7th Community night a big success. The sales not only exceeded \$1,000 but \$2,000 as well. So they estimate that we will receive \$231.40. The McAlister's staff was happy to sign us up for our second date, which will be on Dec. 9th from 5 to 9 pm. While some of us would like to have more nights, they weren't ready to change their plan that allows for four Community nights per group. Way to go UUCG! For more information, please contact Bev Harju or another Board Member.

On October 5th, Rev. Ann Marie offered Service Leader Training to seven members. She went over the script and protocol behaviors for this role. Ann Marie also led the group through the preparation of materials needed for a Sunday service. Please let Ann Marie or Bev know if you would like to attend another training session in January and what time works for you. Our next Worship Committee Meeting will be Monday, November 2nd at 5 pm.

—Bev Harju

Reader's Theatre Returns to UUCG

On Sunday, November 8th, UUCG will host the ECU School of Medicine's READERS THEATRE as they perform Richard Selzer's "Follow Your Heart", during the 10:30 Service.

The play follows the impact of organ donation on donor and recipient families. In "Follow Your Heart" the wife of a man whose organs have been donated for transplantation seeks solace from her grief in an unusual and perhaps ethically questionable way. The story puts a human face on organ transplantation by looking at the issue from the perspectives of the donor's family, the organ recipient, and the transplant physician.

There will be time for discussion during and after the Sunday Service.



November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>01</p> <p>9:15am» The Forum</p> <p>10:30am» Worship Service</p> <p>12pm» RE committee meeting</p>	<p>02</p> <p>5pm» Worship Committee Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm» Girl Scout Troop Meeting</p>	<p>03</p> <p>8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</p> <p>7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</p>	<p>04</p> <p>5:30pm» UU Spirituality</p> <p>7pm» Choir Practice</p> <p>8pm» Teen Group</p>	<p>05</p> <p>7pm» Program Council</p>	<p>06</p> <p>5:30pm» Art Reception</p> <p>6pm» A Course in Miracles</p>	<p>07</p> <p>10am» Building Cleaning</p> <p>7pm» Annual Service Auction</p>
<p>08</p> <p>9:15am» The Forum</p> <p>10:30am» Worship Service</p> <p>7pm» UU Meditation Group</p>	<p>09</p> <p>7pm» Board Meeting</p> <p>7:30pm» Sierra Club</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</p> <p>7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm» UU Spirituality</p> <p>7pm» Choir Practice</p> <p>8pm» Teen Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30pm» Social Action Committee</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6pm» A Course in Miracles</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am» Building & Grounds Workday</p> <p>10am» Building Cleaning</p> <p>7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:15am» The Forum</p> <p>10:30am» Worship Service</p> <p>4pm» Greenweavers CUUPS monthly meeting</p> <p>5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30pm» Girl Scout Troop meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</p> <p>7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</p> <p>*8pm» Beacon Submission Deadline</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm» UU Spirituality</p> <p>7pm» Choir Practice</p> <p>8pm» Teen Group</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6pm» A Course in Miracles</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am» Building Cleaning</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:15am» The Forum</p> <p>10:30am» Worship Service</p> <p>5:30pm» UU Roddenberry Circle</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</p> <p>7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30pm» UU Spirituality</p> <p>7pm» Choir Practice</p> <p>8pm» Teen Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30pm» UU Men's Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6pm» A Course in Miracles</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am» First Born Food Distribution</p> <p>10am» Building Cleaning</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:15am» The Forum</p> <p>10:30am» Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p>					

Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation

bring in an average of \$1,800 every week from our fundraisers, pledges, rental income, collection baskets, etc. Some weeks that does not happen. We have members and friends whose financial situations are challenging and sometimes even the best intentions do not pay a pledge made several months ago.

The Board has been very clear that we cannot raise money only from within. We are using several new, and then some long time favorite, fundraising strategies. Our recent McAllister's Community Day was a happy surprise – we raised \$231.40 and Bev has already signed us up for another one on December 9th! Don't forget that if any of our members and friends show a UUCG order of service when eating Sunday lunch at Heavenly Ham, on Red Banks Road, UUCG will get 10% of that bill. It could all really add up - and it's not like any of us do not like to eat..... We also have been approached by both members and non-members about renting our building for various meetings and events. Sometimes by being generous we can meet two goals.

Our Annual Service Auction is coming up soon – November 7th. Feryl and Brenda need your bright ideas and creative gifts of skill and time to make it a success. We also want you to invite your friends and families, especially the

November Happy Birthdays:

Jeanne Stone (November 1)
Bradley Baker (November 3)
Bill Baker (November 7)
Don English (November 7)
Bruce Baker (November 9)
Theresa Sparrow (November 12)
Aaron Gade (November 16)

— Alan Bailey

ones with a competitive streak who hate to lose.....

We also need volunteers to help wrap gifts on Thanksgiving Friday and the five days before Christmas. For UUCG your time donated will likely mean that we will be closer to our budgeted fundraising goal of \$4,000 this year, which is about 5% of our entire budget. Sometimes we have time to donate, sometimes we have money, and sometimes it is our talents that we can share. Every member and friend of UUCG has something to give that we need in order to thrive. If you are in a challenging financial situation and you have questions about how you can help support UUCG please see Reverend Ann Marie. This could be the time when you and UUCG need each other the most.

I like to remember that old saying: “what goes around comes around.” When we give to another, we are really either paying forward towards a time when we will be the recipient or paying backwards in gratitude for what we have already received.

In Gratitude and Covenant,
Patrice Alexander
Patrice Alexander, President
UUCG Board of Trustees, 2009-2010



So Much to Be Thankful For

Respecting the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

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**The Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858
355-6658**

Staff

Minister: Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir: Kimberly Scholl
President: Patrice Alexander
Vice President: Theresa Sparrow
Secretary: Susan Foreman
Treasurer: Brenda Stewart
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Feryl Masters,
Richard Weir & Terry Shank
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Kathy Weigel & Tracy
Donohue
Membership: Alan Bailey & Heidi
Luchsinger
Religious Education: Jennifer Thielen
Social Action: Pat Tesh & Tom Long
Worship: Bev Harju

